

Chief Benjamin Lewis Carpenter of Newaygo,
Died July 23, 1963

Night Watchman William A. Daniels of
Cassopolis, Died January 26, 1903

OIL INDUSTRY MERGER ANTI-TRUST ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2006

Mr. DEWINE. Madam President, I join Senator KOHL as sponsor of the Oil Industry Merger Antitrust Enforcement Act. This bill will make it significantly more difficult for oil companies to merge, and should help put an end to the record energy prices that continue to burden America's consumers and businesses.

As we all know, these high fuel costs are affecting every family, and they show no sign of coming back down. We must continue our efforts to do something about it. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights, I have been working for years to combat the problem of higher energy prices. Along with Senator KOHL, I have championed legislation to make it clear that the Department of Justice has the legal authority to prosecute OPEC for its price fixing of crude oil prices. As we all know, the biggest part of our gas prices is the price of crude oil, and the only way we can restore competition in the market for crude oil is to fight against OPEC's blatantly illegal and anticompetitive conspiracy to fix prices of this crucial commodity.

I have also asked the Federal Trade Commission to monitor gasoline prices to make sure that consumers are not subject to price gouging or illegal price manipulation, and in response to that request the FTC has instituted an ongoing project to monitor gasoline prices in 360 markets across the Nation, including 12 in my home State of Ohio.

Further, the Judiciary Committee has held two hearings addressing the causes of higher fuel prices in recent months, and last month I joined with Chairman SPECTER and Senators KOHL, LEAHY, FEINSTEIN, and DURBIN, to sponsor legislation which prevents oil companies from unfairly manipulating the supply of oil in order to artificially raise prices, and also calls for investigations into how effective enforcement of oil mergers has been, whether past mergers need to be revisited, and whether the enforcement agencies need new standards for reviewing oil industry mergers. That legislation also creates a Joint Federal and State Task force to investigate information sharing in the oil industry that may lead to artificially high prices for gasoline, electricity, and heating oil. Perhaps most important, it provides a "NOPEC" provision like the one that Senator KOHL and I have sponsored in the past, which enables Justice to prosecute the illegal OPEC cartel.

While all these efforts are steps in the right direction, we continue to see increasing fuel costs, and one likely

reason is the ongoing consolidation in the oil industry. And, as our energy needs increase and as oil gets harder and more expensive to find and produce, it seems likely that this consolidation will continue. Therefore, we need to continue our efforts to maintain competition in this industry, and by making it more difficult for oil companies to merge, this legislation provides a different and useful approach for keeping these companies independent and maintaining the competition that still exists.

Specifically, this bill changes the burden of proof in cases alleging illegal mergers, so that oil companies that want to merge must prove that their merger will not harm consumers. In addition, this bill requires the antitrust agencies to specifically consider the unique conditions of the petroleum market when evaluating these mergers, in order to assure that when reviewing proposed mergers the agencies are focusing on the potential dangers of oil industry mergers. These changes, taken together, will make sure that only pro-competitive mergers are allowed, and will help protect consumers and businesses from higher energy prices.

We still have many challenges to face in our ongoing efforts to combat high energy prices, but this bill will make a difference and I strongly encourage my colleagues to join in support of its passage.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF CLARK, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, today I rise in order to pay tribute to the 125th anniversary of the founding of the city of Clark, SD. As the county seat of Clark County, this vibrant, progressive community has been a center of commercial and civic activity since its inception.

The site which Clark is built on was chosen by GEN S.J. Conklin, who would later become known as the Father of Clark County. The prospects of the town increased greatly when the railroad was complete in early 1882. With the arrival of the trains came a flurry of economic activity. The first businesses opened in Clark were the Clark House operated by Mattie Greenslet and a general store operated by COL W.H. Lamb. Later there would be a land office and the Big Store, known as the largest department store west of Minneapolis.

Now Clark is home to seven churches, a thriving business community, excellent hunting and fishing, and the high school's Clark Comets, among various other attractions. Each year, Clark hosts both Potato Day and the Halloween Spooktacular. Additionally, there are over two dozen civic organizations doing good work in the community.

I am pleased to announce that Clark will be celebrating its 125th anniversary with a community celebration on June 10 to 11. There are numerous events scheduled, including a parade, street dance, ecumenical church service, community potluck, and baseball games. This celebration is a fitting way to recognize Clark's long and productive history.

Even 125 years after its founding, Clark continues to be a vital community and a great asset to South Dakota. I am proud to publicly honor Clark on this memorable occasion. The citizens of Clark are continuing to live up their motto: Clark is indeed "a nice place to visit . . . a great place to call home."•

THE PASSING OF ANN WEBSTER SMITH

• Mr. CHAFEE. Madam President, I take this opportunity to recognize Anne Webster Smith, a world-renowned preservationist, who died in Washington, DC on April 20, 2006.

Like Rhode Island's grand dame of historic preservation, Antionette Downing, Anne Webster Smith exhibited a tireless and infectious dedication to the preservation of our cultural heritage. Just last year, Ms. Smith was awarded the Piero Gazzola Prize, given once every 3 years by the International Council on Monuments and Sites, for her lifelong efforts to protect the world's historic and cultural sites. This tribute, seconded by scores of ICOMOS leaders from throughout the world, is a statement that leadership is as much about cultivation, persistence and persuasion as it is bold initiative.

In addition to her 30 years of service to ICOMOS, Ms. Smith served as New York's Deputy Commissioner for Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and as a professional staff member at the USDOT and Advisory Council for Historic Preservation. She was most active in those critical years when she and her colleagues created the modern institutional foundation for preservation in the U.S.

In her service to ICOMOS, Ms. Smith was dedicated to recognizing the world's greatest cultural and natural sites through the United Nations World Heritage Program. At the same time, as an American she had greater ambitions for her own country. In a letter she sent me just last January, she lamented: "I have long been concerned by the fact that the United States, the first nation to ratify the Convention after its passage in 1972, has been so slow to recognize the importance of implementing the Convention. In my view the Convention has the potential for increasing community pride, for expanding educational awareness and interest in our Nation's heritage and history, for developing concern about the importance of distinguished architecture and planning, especially in urban areas, and for serving as an important tool for the expansion of development